

WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT

No. 6⁷/₂

"If only I could make prayer to the deities, my ancestors, the hunter-gatherers, to the spirits I've come to recognise in the trees and rocks, to the goddess herself. If only I could crack open rare mammal bones and decipher the secrets encoded in its flowing matrix. If I could somehow climb the highest peak, sit silent the longest, interpret the pleas as well as the celebrations of the jewelled birds, somehow prove myself worthy to make requests of this magnificent planet spirit that creates and sustains us all.

I would wish, without speaking, that the greedy-scrambling-lost-lonely, desparate and distracted kinetic masses could become truly in touch with themselves, with their real animal-aware selves. To sense with all the senses.

I'd learn that special music that sends cracks like veins through their protective plastic covering. I'd send the dawn's steamy clouds like inspiration, condensing into droplets of water - that precious and pure biological basis all life shares in common.

They would find their way through the cracks and begin dripping like incantations, like invitations...and having discovered this rainforest within themselves, awesome potential lit by awareness, coloured and scented with genetic and environmental interplay, alive with leafy-furried-scaled-feathered diversity, in touch with their own primordial and spiritual roots, they would truly understand ... The best reason for going beyond rhetoric into the responsive arena of direct action, is not for any resource it might contain for us, not even for its dynamic value as wondrous, beautiful places for our children and descendants to learn their place in the natural order or experience its unextinguished magic and living freedom.

Let me tell you. Finding the rainforest in themselves, they'd know without a doubt we must fight for these remaining wild lands and wild species if no human eye ever gets to feast on its beauty. We must fight because they belong here, because they have a right above all to be here. For their own sake, not for ours.

And because ... humankind cannot exploit-cage-clearcut the wilds without simultaneously crushing the diversity, spirit, and wild potential within ourselves!

Lone Wolf Circles

Tierra Prima!

"Earth First!"

Unilever **QUITS** Solomons Logging



Campaigns against companies involved in tropical forest logging seem to be gaining momentum, judging by recent events.

In a short space of time Unilever, for long under protest in the Solomon Islands for its logging attitudes and practices, has finally decided to sell off their Solomon Islands logging interests: EMAIL, until recently largest loggers of tropical rainforest in Queensland, Australia, have decided to get out of the forest, and have sold subsidiary Foxwood Ltd: and the Volkswagen parent company in West Germany is facing shareholder reaction to its involvement in Amazon destruction.

The Volkswagen reaction in West Germany surfaced on July 4 in Hamburg at a VW shareholders meeting. Shareholder Michael Fuest drew the meeting's attention to the activities of Volkswagen de Brasil in burning huge areas of the Amazon for their cattle ranching business, and requested that the parent company withdraw subsidies. Further clarification of resulting actions is being sought.

In Australia, the EMAIL news was greeted as a success by organisers of the EMAIL boycott, a campaign which received major publicity in the wake of international attention to the problem of the Queensland forests. EMAIL, as manufacturers of a wide range of fridges and other domestic products, had long defended its forest practices, but obviously saw the writing on the wall.

An open letter to the Directors of EMAIL, which appeared on walls and hoardings around Australia, was a feature of the campaign. Thousands of letters were received by the company, Directors wives were approached, consumer magazines in Australia such as "Choice" carried news of the boycott, and letters were written from many countries. The campaign began with media coverage of a "tree" axing a refrigerator.

The new owner of Foxwood, and now clearly established as the largest logger of the Australian Wet Tropics, is Rankine Bros, who before this purchase already operated several mills.

The end of Unilever's logging in the Solomon Islands will come after many years of campaigning, and an involvement by Unilever which began over a century ago. In recent years the relationship has turned sour: ex Prime Ministers of the Solomon Islands have criticised the company for its colonial attitudes, and in 1982 people in New Georgia burnt and destroyed Unilever's logging town, Barora, and their equipment in protest at their activities.

Unilever will stop logging the Solomon Islands at the end of 1986, and transfer their interests to a local company. A major reason for leaving the Solomon Islands is reported to be difficulties in negotiating logging contracts with landowners.

Since 1982, the Rainforest Information Centre has been making yearly visits to the Solomon Islands, and travelling from village to village in areas threatened by logging with slide shows and information on the problem of forest destruction in the tropics.

The Unilever withdrawal from the Solomon Islands still sees them involved in the Andaman and Nicobar of India, and in Africa, but is a sign of pressures which can be applied to force even large companies to adopt environmentally sound practices.

None of these changes has yet resulted in a cessation of logging in areas previously exploited by these companies. Although the activities will continue with other companies, perhaps we are beginning to see in the above events that consciousness of the public image problem of companies involved in tropical forest destruction is rising. The removal of all multinational activity from the tropical forests will not solve the problem completely, but will certainly be a significant change for the better.

U.W. faces protest...! Email sells out...



There is a tribe of Rainforest Indians in Ecuador who tell a story:

The women believe that when the tribal designs are gone from the pottery, there will be no way back onto the Earth for the women.

The men believe that when the last mushroom on the last log is gone, there will be no way back onto the Earth for the men.

When there is no way back for them how will we get back?

Trees For Life



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THE WORLD BANK by Doug Ferguson

To grasp the enormity of the current stranglehold on both the economy and the ecology of planet Earth by the IMF (the International Monetary Fund) and the multilateral development organisations, the foremost of which is the World Bank, it is necessary to understand a little of the inception and history of these two organisations.

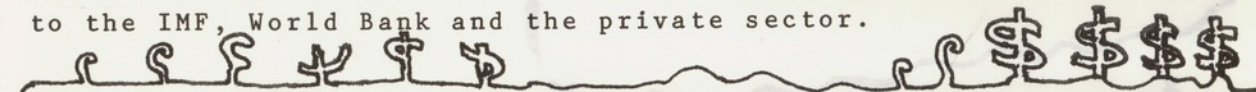
Both the IMF and the World Bank (also known as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) were formed at the conference of major western allies, held in 1944 at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, USA. The World Bank was established as a major source of development funds to help reconstruct war-ravaged Western European countries with long term loans. Its partner institution, the IMF, was founded to ensure an international monetary system that would support and promote free trade and investment against all barriers and forms of protectionism.

The very idea of putting up the IMF and the World Bank originated in the US Treasury Department, whose officials were involved with the US State Department's Advisory Committee on postwar foreign policy. The post depression US economy was floated during the Second World War. At the end of the war the factories were in full swing and the US found itself in a good position to manipulate the global economy to create markets for this industrial juggernaut. The World Bank and the IMF were the means of tying global economy to US geo-political interests and in a very real sense development became the war. The World Bank, the biggest 'aid' organisation in the world, was central to this scenario.

The word 'aid' has only been in use since the Second World War. Prior to this, colonial powers had simply taken raw materials and food products from 'their' colonies. Since WW2 the money required to remove the resources from developing countries has been considered a loan, and countries find themselves in the situation of exporting their environment in payment for the means to do so.

This means that, for example, a forested area can be underwritten at a value against a nation's debt. There is no question of offering timber on an open market as we are led to believe; the price of the forest has already been determined by import and export deficits and a country may still be paying for the bulldozers long after the forest has gone.

A good example is Ecuador. The most fertile land has been sacrificed for the payment of foreign debt. Grown along the coastal strip of fertile land are bananas (worth a special mention as Ecuador is the banana republic), a myriad of other tropical fruits and some of the old favourites such as coffee and cocoa. Very little of this food is seen by the people of Ecuador -- their staple diet, maize, has been marginalized to the much less fertile mountains -- as it is shipped to foreign ports (mostly western) for consumption overseas. Vast tracts of land have been cleared for the growth of cash crops. The indigenous people have been displaced for large landowners and countless species are being casually forced into extinction as the Ecuadorian government endeavours to keep up its interest payments to the IMF, World Bank and the private sector.



The World Bank is the world's largest development aid institution and the nerve centre of the international financial system. Since it began operations in 1946, it has loaned out more than US\$710 billion; today it supervises more than 1,600 projects in 100 countries.

What makes it an even more overwhelmingly strong institution is that it is also profit making, netting annual profits currently rising at the level of about \$600 million a year, realised every year since 1948, of which \$3 billion have been ploughed back into the institution to strengthen its equity base.

The USA appoints the World Bank chairman. Presently at the helm is Barber Conable, a lawyer and political scientist with no bankerly credentials. Before him were A.W. Clausen, former Bank of America chairman, who succeeded Robert McNamara in July 1981 (McNamara was president of the World Bank for thirteen years; he had been previously president of Ford Motor Company and Secretary of Defense under both the Kennedy and the Johnson administrations, and as such was a principle architect of the Vietnam War).

Since the mid 1950's, the World Bank has shifted most of its financing to the Third World. It is, as previously mentioned, the world's biggest development agency while the IMF is a 'a lender of last resort' for those experiencing balance of payment difficulties.

Countries enmeshed in debt situations are forced to go to the IMF; Clauses of 'conditionality' are written into dealings with the IMF, who maintain the right to dictate internal policy both political and economic. A nation can be 'contracted' to halt public spending, forced to produce what the IMF dictates regardless of the effect on the people or the environment; thus the 'lender of last resort' becomes master of nations, using such tools as devaluation of currency and adjustment of interest rates which can and have destroyed economies overnight, increasing the suffering of millions in one fell swoop.

The World Bank and the IMF are the devil and the deep blue sea. Even industrially advanced nations such as Australia find themselves in this situation. Australia has a per capita debt similar to that of some of the most impoverished South American countries (some \$30 billion).

The march of capital as dictated by the World Bank and the IMF has no consideration for the environment. If not the God or Devil we worship, these institutions can at least be considered the altar of supreme sacrifice as the very threads of creation are unravelled to give Caesar his due and the American political machine holds its finger on the button to make sure that we do so.



THAILAND: In Thailand, forest covered eighty per cent of the country forty years ago. The twenty per cent remaining is quickly being destroyed.

PHUKET UPRISING

THAI RAMPAGE A BLOW FOR WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

by Jonathan Friedland in Washington
reported in Sydney Morning Herald, 26/6/86.

"In the latest blow to the World Bank's handling of environmental issues, some 50,000 angry Thai protesters destroyed a tin processing plant on Monday that had been given an environmentally-sound stamp of approval by the Washington-based lender. The \$90 million tantalum refinery, located on the Thai resort island of Phuket, was backed by \$57.4 million in loan and equity capital from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a World Bank affiliate which mobilises funding for the Third World private sector.

Thai environmental activists have fought the establishment of the plant, which processes tin tailings into tantalum, a lightweight metal used in aircraft and weapon manufacture -- including nuclear warheads -- because caustic acids are used and the tailings are slightly radioactive.

"All our projects are vetted by the World Bank's environmental unit," said IFC spokesman Mr. Donald Roessner, "and this one met their guidelines."

The Monday protest turned into a rampage, IFC officials said, with protestors setting the plant alight and then turning on the Merlin Hotel whose owners are also part owners of the "Thailand Tantalum Industry Corporation Ltd."

Thai industry minister Mr. Chirayu Isarangukura Na Ayutthaya was forced to leave the island by helicopter shortly after arriving in Phuket for a hearing on whether the plant should be allowed to open. Soon after that Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanond declared a state of emergency on the pristine resort island, 425 miles south of Bangkok.

The main business on Phuket, a beach fringed island in the Andaman Sea, is tourism. Local businessmen and environmental activists claimed that the tantalum refinery would damage business.

But IFC and its Thai partners conceived of the plant as a means of reviving the island's moribund tin industry which has deteriorated over the last decade, leaving many Phuket residents unemployed.

The plant was to have used a low-cost, high-technology process developed by the Herman C. Starck Company of Berlin. According to IFC officials, the Starck company officials also believe the plant would pose little harm to Phuket's natural resource base.

The Washington-based lender is sending a mission to Thailand to see whether the facility, which is said to have been completely destroyed in the fire, can be salvaged.

News of the environmentalists' ire is likely to be a further blow to the Bank's badly tarnished image on environmental issues.

IN BORNEO, THE BAKUN DAM

A huge area of Sarawak rainforest at Bakun and the fifty-two longhouses therein are to be flooded by a 690 sq.km. dam in a hydro electric power scheme designed to provide 2400 megawatts, only one-quarter of which is projected to be required in Sarawak itself. If the scheme is carried out as planned, the Malaysian government will undertake to carry some 750 MW westward to the Malayan peninsula by 670 kms. of undersea cable. Excess power could be sold to Brunei and Singapore.

The US\$18 million's worth of feasibility studies are still held from public scrutiny; the already indebted Malaysian economy will be further burdened by the projected total cost of US\$4 billion. However, as the feasibility studies have not been released, it is impossible to say whether this is a realistic total. Esso is pushing for the alternative tapping of the natural gas supply, good for twenty years. The dam would meet Malaysia's power needs for about fourteen years; it has a projected lifespan of thirty to fifty years.

There are numerous questions, unanswered under the Malaysian government's veil of secrecy, about the economic wisdom of such a scheme. But of more real-life importance and urgency is the fate of the forest itself and the people who dwell in it. The Malaysian government does not have a clean record of fair compensation for land lost; more than that, thousands of the threatened residents feel there can be no compensation for loss of their own tribal lands, their sacred sites, their ancestral burial grounds.

The Bakun Residents' Action Committee, comprised of representatives from different communities in the area, have sworn to defend their land with their lives. Longhouse action groups have been formed, petitions are collecting thousands of signatures, protest actions are being planned, and support is being sought on the more populous Malay Peninsula. Pragmatists among the groups negotiate for the best possible compensatory terms.

The following poem by Kenneth E. Boulding is reprinted from the excellent INTERNATIONAL DAMS NEWSLETTER, a publication which seeks to help citizens' organisations working to change policies on large dam construction throughout the world. I.D.N. Fort Mason Centre, Building C, San Fransisco CA 94123 USA.



The cost of building dams is always underestimated-
There's erosion of the delta that the river has created,
There's fertile soil below the dam that's likely to be looted,
And the tangled mat of forest that has got to be uprooted.

There's the breaking up of cultures with old haunts' and habits' loss,
There's the education program that just doesn't come across,
And the wasted fruits of progress that are seldom much enjoyed
By expelled subsistence farmers who are urban unemployed.

There are benefits, of course, which may be countable, but which
Have a tendency to fall into the pockets of the rich,
While the costs are apt to fall upon the shoulders of the poor.
So costs-benefit analysis is nearly always sure,
To justify the building of a solid concrete fact,
While the Ecological Truth is left behind in the Abstract.



INDONESIA



The Indonesian Archipelago contains a great number of intact tribal peoples. Their home is the fragile rainforest, home also of countless species; a vast genetic resource.

Incursions into the Indonesian rainforests are dramatic; over a million hectares are being cleared annually.

In the 'Ecologist', Vol.15, Numbers 2-3, 1986, Marcus Colchester from Survival International, says:

"Transmigration is leading to irreversible destruction of huge areas of rainforest, the alienation of tribal peoples from their lands and the denial of their internationally recognised right to self-determination. Yet the program is being supported by the tax payments of the general public in the donor countries.

"With western governments cynically committed to continuing their support for the program, only public protest can now stop this tragic misdirection of 'aid'."

Over recent months Australian people have become increasingly aware of the corruption of the government of our Indonesian neighbours. Public knowledge and public pressure is increasing in human rights and environmental matters, both of which are inextricably linked.

Crimes against the environment are also crimes against humanity.

In Indonesia, a war is being waged against the rainforest and the many species that are contained within it, including the greatly diverse number of peoples and traditions.

The rainforest lives on a delicate balance between sky, rain and trees. The rainforest soil is infertile. It will not support intensive agriculture and is ruined and useless in a few years after clearing.

Government promises are not kept. Many thousands of the three and a half million 'transmigrated' have returned home to find their land has been sold. The percentage of landless in Java has risen from 3% to 14% during the process of transmigration.

The air of the planet, vast genetic resources and tribal lands are being traded for a few years' cash crops as countries scramble to pay their debt to the World Bank, and The International Monetary Fund.

This is now the situation in Indonesia, as the Javanese empire increases its stranglehold on one of the most diverse and beautiful areas of the world ostensibly to ease its own population problems. More recently in Irian Jaya, as is reported in the same edition of the 'Ecologist' in an open letter to the president of the World Bank, "Transmigration is causing the continuing exodus of tribal people from West Papua into neighbouring Papua Niugini. According to United Nations High Commission for Refugees, there are presently 10,500 refugees in camps all along the border, including about 500 new arrivals in the last few months..... refugees report the bombing of villages, indiscriminate shooting, imprisonment, torture, rape, the burning of settlements and the killing and stealing of livestock.

"Taken together, these facts make it abundantly clear that trans-migration, as it is being implemented, is directly contravening the terms of the World Bank's guidelines for the development of tribal areas."

Indonesian Government policy classifies tribal people as 'suku suku terasing' (isolated and alien peoples) or occasionally as 'suku suku terbelakang' (isolated and backward peoples).

Government reports (memorandum accompanying 1979/1984 five year plan) say that these people

- have farming techniques that are devastating the environment and posing dangers to maintaining ecological equilibrium.
- live contrary to the state philosophy of Panca Sila, (the five principles, the first of which is belief in almighty god).
- have dwellings which are merely places which provide shelter and a place to sleep. They are far below the norms and requirements that have been established for pleasurable living.
- remain ignorant of the existence of the government or of the concepts of the Indonesian nation and state. They have no sense of their duties as citizens of the state.
- have no capacity or ability to withstand external and internal political threats. In the context of the state doctrine of total people's defence, these isolated communities constitute weak groups and regions within the total system of defence. It is

obvious from these few classifications that this is ecocide.

Moreover, it is clear that these violations of human rights are not just the result of poor planning and implementation at the local level, but are inherent in the legislation and policy of the program.

In 1985 the World Bank promised over a billion dollars for the transmigration program. In May of this year a forum including Edward Goldsmith and Marcus Colchester denounced transmigration and requested that the World Bank consider carefully this tragic situation. The World Bank has since asked the Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI), of which Australia is a donor country, to allocate more funds for Indonesian aid.

The World Bank's own guidelines state:

"Land rights... are vital to the economic, social and psychological well being of individual tribal members, as well as for the maintenance of the group's cultural stability. Those national governments that are signatory to the UN charter and require Bank assistance can be guided by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights."

We call for greater understanding. Multi-lateral developments are threatening the substrate of organic material upon which their profit is based, upon which life is based.



Dear Mr Keating.

We wish to bring to your attention the matter of the Transmigration Program in Indonesia. Australia is in a unique and responsible position concerning this program.

For a decade now Australia has stood silent while atrocities on a grand scale are every day occurrences in Indonesia. In 1976 Mr. Fraser gave the orders which prevented Telecom, Darwin, from passing on telegrams from the Fretilin forces, effectively silencing any hope of these people stating their case internationally.

By 1985, nine years and a sea of blood later, Mr Hawke, in a total reversal of Labor policy, saw fit to recognise Indonesia's sovereign authority over East Timor. The three wise monkey ethic in Australian politics prevailed as 200,000 Timorese were slaughtered on the altar of political pragmatism.

Amidst this political climate Australia has welcomed Indonesia as a member of the Free World; free to be plundered by industrial societies and their agents such as the World Bank. Australia is a member of the Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia (IGGI), the fourteen nation board responsible for allocating money to the World Bank for Indonesian 'aid'. Thus Australia is doubly complicit.

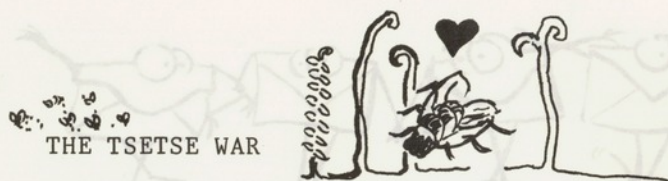
Even the East Timorese scenario pales when compared with the destructive potential of the transmigration program, which is funded by the World Bank in bi-lateral agreements with the Indonesian Government.

Many of the most fragile and species rich eco-systems on our planet are contained within the varying rainforests of Indonesia. These rainforests are the home of many of the last intact tribal peoples. This irreplaceable planetary resource is being sacrificed on the same convenient altar as the Timorese People.

The Australian Government is a signatory of the World Conservation Strategy of 1980. In accordance with the principles contained therein, we are urging you, Mr. Keating, as Australia's governor for the World Bank, to add Australia's voice to that of the US and adopt the policies already passed by the US Congress to ensure the safety of tribal peoples and the environment. Australian money should no longer support these atrocities. Australia can no longer be a dumb and silent participant in ethnocide, genocide and ecocide.

Yours sincerely,

Doug Ferguson



Many people today have accepted the tsetse war and the aid agency industry's inability to solve the problem of world hunger. Too few, however, are aware of a more disquieting reality: that it is precisely the operations of the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, and of the agribusiness food system which it fronts and promotes, which is a major root cause of worsening hunger in the world, and the poisoning of the poor.

An aid to understanding is to be found in this study of the FAO's "Tsetse War". This offers a paradigm of errors and of false directions which have trapped the agency, and its supporters on the treadmill of addictive, inappropriate and destructive technology called by the critics 'a technological fix'. A multi-billion dollar campaign, already underway for a decade and planned to continue for thirty years or more, and affecting about forty African countries, it is one of the FAO's most extensive, most enduring and most heatedly criticised field operations; and while undoubtedly bringing vast benefits to its pesticide pushing promoters, it is, as will become clear, a dangerously damaging and cynical exercise in futility at the cost of impoverishment and poisoning of the defenceless poor of the vast regions under attack.

What is particularly depressing is that agricultural policies continue to be influenced by the FAO which has been for many years under the complete domination of the agro-chemical industry, whose representatives until recently occupied spacious offices at the FAO headquarters in Rome and were instrumental in organising the World Food Conference.

The aim of the campaign was initially to eradicate -- though later, in the light of realities on the ground, this was reduced to 'control' -- tsetse flies over seventy percent of their African habitat, encompassing in all 10 million square kilometres. This vast area, greater in size than the United States or, for the total infested area, than China or Canada, was according to FAO's publicity at the time "almost all rainforest or woodland".

The size and the arrogance of such a programme is perhaps the most startling aspect, but the madness continues: the reason for the 'war' on the tsetse is to eradicate this pest from vast areas of regrowth, so that 120 million additional head of cattle can be brought in to produce some 1.5 million tonnes of low grade beef a year.

Many people believe that the tsetse is the only thing keeping Africa green. The tsetse is able to kill both cattle and people by transmitting sleeping sickness. The ability to keep the bigger animals out of the regrowth area gives the trees a chance to grow. A similar situation in Kerala, South India, saw the destruction of vast tracts of rainforest by DDT, dumped in order to eradicate the malaria mosquito who, like the tsetse, guards the rainforest.

Many droughts are caused by loss of forests and the inability of the consequently impoverished soil to retain the water and maintain the hydrological cycle.



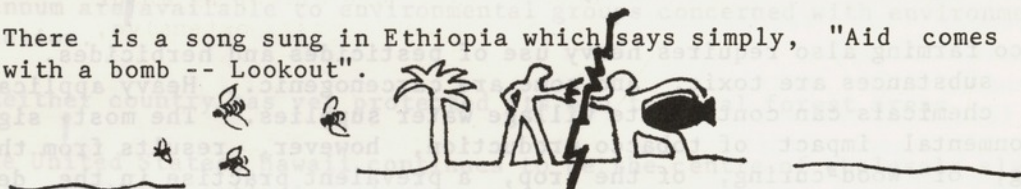
The strategy behind the 'operation' is closely worked between FAO, the World Bank, and multinational sellers of insecticide such as the exporters of endosulfan.

Wide scale spraying only came into vogue after the Second World War. Between 150,000 and 175,000 tonnes of active ingredients have already been nonchalantly rained down upon Africa's tsetse areas during the decade since this programme began. And this means tonnes of stable, accumulative poisons so deadly that a healthy adult directly consuming as little as three grammes of any one of them -- say a small teaspoonful -- would suffer a gruesome death within hours.

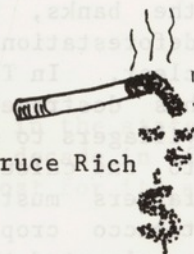
Ironically, the tsetse have shown themselves to be very resilient and still abound in the poisoned areas.

The ten million square kilometres of rainforest woodland as described by FAO is a buffer against the encroaching desert and the desert's constant companion -- the starvation that is already engulfing millions of Africans.

There is a song sung in Ethiopia which says simply, "Aid comes with a bomb -- Lookout".



TOBACCO AND THE WORLD BANK



written by Bruce Rich

from Ecology Law Quarterly, 1985, pg. 69

Compared with other bank activities, tobacco projects present one of the strongest contrasts between quantifiable economic benefits and unquantified adverse environmental and public health consequences. Between 1974 and 1982, the World Bank (WB) lent 611 million dollars for 17 tobacco projects in 11 countries. The Bank finances tobacco projects on a substantial scale because tobacco is the most profitable cash crop in many regions of the world, generates considerable employment and provides dependable sources of government revenue and export earnings. In the Philippines, for example, tobacco taxes alone account for 47% of government revenue. In the late 1970's, leaf tobacco exports accounted for 10% of export earnings in Turkey and over 55% in Malawi.

Approximately three quarters of all tobacco is consumed in the country where it is produced. The prime growth market for tobacco exports is the developing world, where consumption is increasing at an average of four percent a year, compared with one percent in industrialised countries. In Brazil, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, consumption grows six to eight percent each year.

Tobacco caused mortality in the developing world may eventually exceed the estimated 800,000 tobacco related premature deaths per year in the industrialised world. The World Health Organisation has already cited cigarette smoking as the leading avoidable cause of death in Brazil, where recent substantial loans from the World Bank have helped increase tobacco production. According to the World Health Organisation and Brazilian researchers, smoking may be responsible for the deaths of 40,000 adults and 40,000 newborn babies each year in Brazil. In South East Asia every year, ninety percent of the 100,000 new cases of oral cancer are caused by chewing tobacco.

In Pakistan, lung cancer is now the most common cause of malignant tumours in men. In Thailand, twenty percent of the population over ten years of age are smokers, and even in the poorest countries such as Swaziland, public health officials have expressed concern over emerging signs of tobacco related public health problems.

The adverse ecological impacts of tobacco production are less obvious, but equally grave. Few tropical crops deplete soil fertility as rapidly as tobacco; the annual harvest of one tonne of tobacco per hectare depletes the soil of 22.4 kilograms of nitrogen, 14.4 kilograms of phosphorous, and 46.4 kilograms of potassium, compared to respective losses of 15.0, 2.5 and 19.5 kilograms for coffee, and 2.2, 0.4 and 1.9 kilograms for cassava (an edible tropical root). Because most tropical soils are relatively poor in nutrients, increasing tobacco production requires farmers to convert more of their limited good land to tobacco rather than food production, to purchase expensive -- usually imported -- fertiliser inputs, or to exhaust the soil in one or two years and move on to deforest a new plot. The pressure on the individual farmer to choose the last alternative is great because the short-term benefits are obvious and the long term ecological costs are borne by others.

Tobacco farming also requires heavy use of pesticides and herbicides. Most of these substances are toxic, and some are carcinogenic. Heavy application of these chemicals can contaminate village water supplies. The most significant environmental impact of tobacco production, however, results from the flue-curing, or wood-curing, of the crop, a prevalent practise in the developing countries. Every acre of Virginia-type tobacco flue-cured in the developing world requires one acre's worth of wood for fuel. Thus, in many parts of the developing world, where tobacco growing is promoted by development agencies and the banks, the relationship between tobacco curing, fuel wood shortages, deforestation and other environmental degradation is becoming increasingly clear. In Tanzania and Malawi, for example, deforestation for tobacco curing has destroyed forest reserves and exacerbated fuel-wood shortages, forcing villagers to compete with the tobacco farms for their energy source. According to one calculation, in a single Brazilian state, Rio Grande do Sul, tobacco farmers must deforest 1.5 million acres (60 million trees) to cure one year's tobacco crop. In Africa, regional deforestation for tobacco curing has accelerated the desertification of the entire continent.

WASHINGTON POST 6.10.85

"* A World Bank loan to the Philippines last year included substantial amounts for pesticides. But the loan proposal did not include a discussion of the methods that would be used to apply the poisons. Philippine experts have found a significant correlation between the twice-yearly pesticide spraying and increases in the incidence of serious illness among male workers in the affected areas.

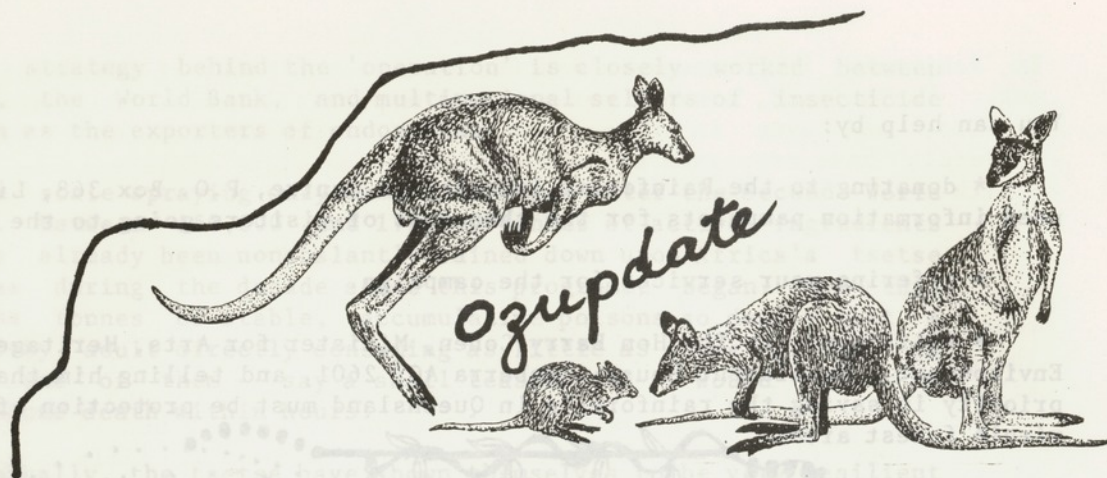
* A 1979 loan financed a hydroelectric dam in Ecuador. Officials were warned that the project would be rendered useless in about seven years because of silt buildup unless a second dam is built upstream. Construction on the first dam is progressing but the plans for the upstream dam have been shelved altogether.

ANYHOW...

* Another dam - in Togo - was approved last year before a study of health concerns could be completed. Less than a month later, the study was finished; it warned that the lake behind the dam would be an ideal breeding ground for snails that carry schistosomiasis, a disease that affects some 250 million people worldwide. But the loan has already been approved; work is going ahead on the dam."

So, you too write to your World Bank Governor, translate this material into your own lingo and try to get it published, urging people to cooperate in the reform of the World Bank.





Things are changing on the tropical forest front. Now, it is becoming fashionable for nations to speak of their environmental awareness.

Two such nations are Australia and the USA, both of whom have spoken in international forums of their desires to see environmental safeguards adopted by other nations, and by international bodies. In the United States, millions of dollars per annum are available to environmental groups concerned with environmental protection.

Yet neither country has yet protected its own tropical forest areas.

In the United States, Hawaii continues to be the centre of wholesale slaughter of forests which are entirely unique.

In Australia, a number of events are occurring which undermine the image being promoted of an environmentally aware nation.

WRAN GOES OUT

Nowhere, we are told, are people more environmentally aware than in the state of New South Wales. Here Premier Wran, on his recent retirement after a decade in office, stated that without a doubt his government would be remembered most for its actions to protect rainforests.

That protection has seen a big drop in the tropical timber cut, as the tropical timber industry is phased out. However, over 50% of the rainforest remnants in the state remain inadequately protected in forest reserves, which will undoubtedly face the axe within twenty years unless further protection is offered. What Wran did was only a beginning.

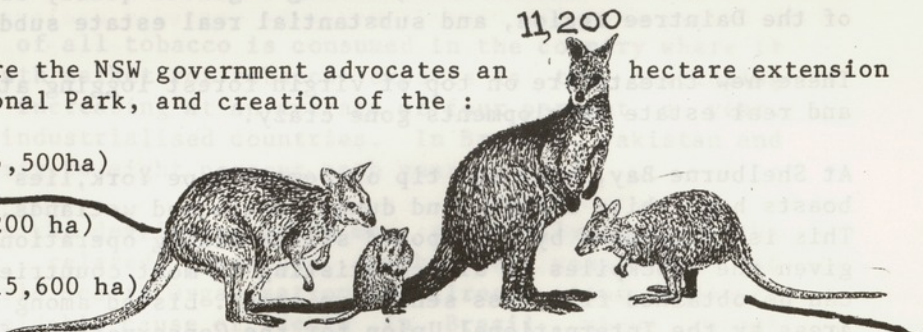
One such area in need of special attention is Focal Peak, in the north of the state. Centre of a massive volcanic eruption 20 million years ago, the area contains major sub tropical forest remnants including 46 mammal species, 233 birds, 59 known reptiles, 32 known amphibians, and a host of invertebrates. 38 of these species are considered endangered.

A proposal presently before the NSW government advocates an 11,200 hectare extension to the Border Ranges National Park, and creation of the :

Tooloom Nature Reserve (5,500ha)

Yabbra Nature Reserve (9,200 ha)

Toonumbar National Park (15,600 ha)



These areas are currently being logged, at a time when less informed government instrumentalities are claiming that logging in NSW rainforests has ceased. The area represents another 10% of the NSW rainforests. Action: Fix this up now by writing to the Hon Bob Carr, Minister for the Environment, Parliament House, Sydney 2001, offering support for the above proposals.

You can help by:

* donating to the Rainforest Information Centre, P.O. Box 368, Lismore 2480. We need information pamphlets for the thousands of visitors going to the area.

* offering your services for the campaign.

* writing now to The Hon Barry Cohen, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Environment, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2601, and telling him that first priority in saving the rainforests in Queensland must be protection of all existing virgin forest areas.

John Seed of the Rainforest Information Centre has been invited to be an Associate Editor of "The Ecologist". This journal continues to set the standard for honest reporting of issues of environment and development and is highly recommended. In particular, the recent issues on the World Bank (Vol 15 No1/2 and No5/6) and on Transmigration (Vol 16 No2/3) have been at the forefront of the international campaigns on these issues.

Subscriptions 12 pounds 50 (airmail 6 pounds extra) to The Ecologist, Subscriptions Department, Worthyvale Manor Farm, Camelford, Cornwall, PL32 9TT, U.K.



RAIN IN NORTH QUEENSLAND



The situation in the north of Australia remains horrendous despite all the publicity.

New plans are afoot in the Greater Daintree Region for further roads and real estate sub division in previously untouched forest. The plans, put forward by Douglas Shire Council, include a road blasting operation at Alexander Range, more work on the controversial Bloomfield Road, making a gravel quarry of Emmogen Creek, in the middle of the Daintree region, and substantial real estate subdivisions near Bloomfield.

These new threats are on top of virgin forest logging at Downey Creek, tin mining, and real estate developments gone crazy.

At Shelburne Bay, near the tip of remote Cape York, lies a wilderness area which boasts huge white silica sand dunes, untouched wetlands, and lush tropical forest. This is threatened by a proposed silica mining operation for export - a strange plan given the stockpiles of silica existing in most countries and the ease with which it can be obtained from less sensitive areas. Listed among the world's greatest natural areas by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Shelburne Bay has only recently been studied in detail. The Australian Heritage Commission says of the area, "one of the largest and possibly the most diverse areas in Australia, with tall mangrove eco-systems, heathlands, and extensive wet tropical rainforests. It also provides habitat for several rare and endangered species. It is also significant for its aboriginal sites and its association with early European settlement".

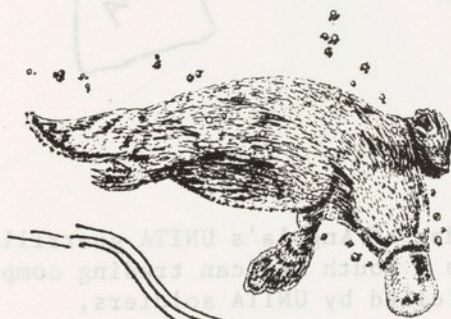
Shelburne Bay is another get - rich - quick/ sell - off - our - resources plan of the Queensland Government for export revenue. Action: Write now to the Hon Ivan Gibbs, Minister for Mines, Parliament House, Brisbane 4000 and let him know that an intact Shelburne Bay is a resource of great value, in need of protection. Also write to Mr John Dawkins, Minister for Trade, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2601 ask ask him to refuse to issue an export licence.

While giving predictable lip service to conservation needs in the Australian tropics, the Federal Government continues to state its position that protests aren't the answer, and that, if environmentalists stop protesting and leave it to the government to sort things out everything will be alright. Minister Barry Cohen has everything under control, and there is no need to get upset, we are told.

The recent announcement by Minister Cohen of his 22 million dollar plan to save tropical forests has been greeted with a yawn by the environmental movement. While allowing for research, erection of shelters in existing parks, etc, the money does not promise the protection of even one hectare of precious virgin forest from logging and mining operations.

The Rainforest Information Centre has decided that these matters should not be left to Mr Cohen, who already has a lot of other things to do as Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Environment.

It does not believe that a healthy community leaves all responsibility for protecting the environment with the government, and therefore is assisting with the Wet Tropics Campaign in Queensland by sending skilled volunteers to the area to establish a vigil and Information Centre and campaign on behalf of the forests. The new campaign network, RAIN, which will link via the Rainforest Information Centre to the international Rainforest Action and Information Network, has decided to concentrate on a campaign to stop logging the remaining virgin forest areas of North Queensland.



A Conference of the Findhorn Foundation

One Earth: A Call to Action

11-18 OCTOBER, 1986

Information from:- The Conference Secretariat,
Cluny Hill College, Forres IV36 0RD, Scotland



GERMANY

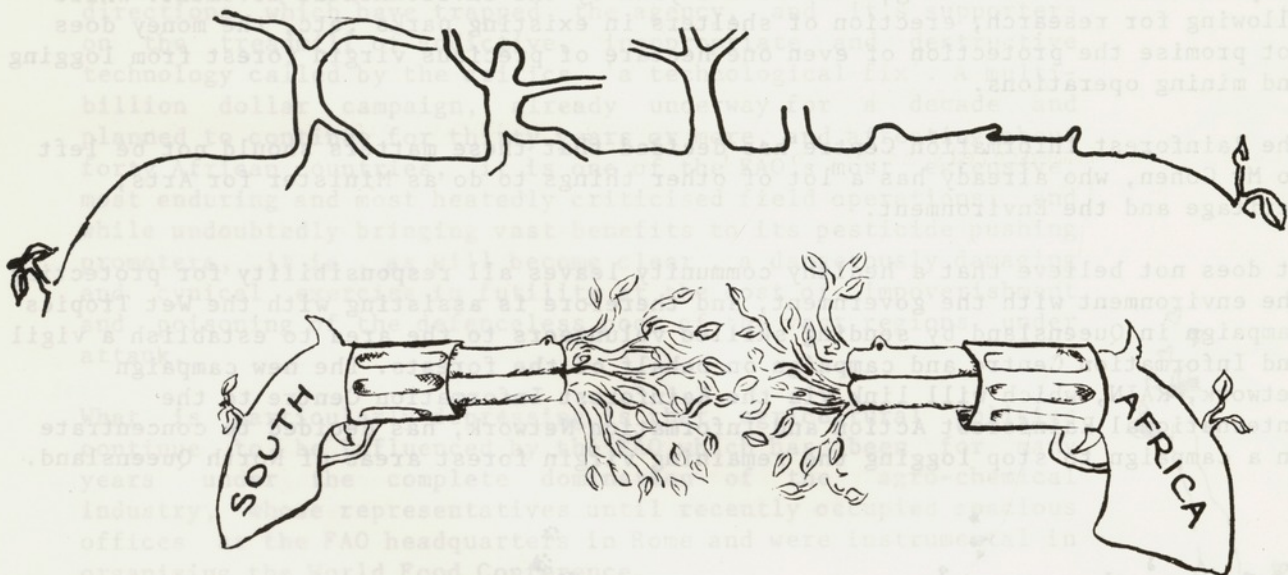
* REGENWALDER ZEITUNG AND OTHER NEWS

In Germany, Reinhard Behrend (Arbeitsgruppe Regenwalder, Poseldorfer Weg 17, 2000 Hamburg 13) had produced the first German World Rainforest Report,* action-packed 16 pages with lots of material about the Multilateral Development Banks including copies of his letters to the relevant German authorities connected with these institutions.

PAPUA NIUGINI

"I shall speak of the land and the forest. This is our land and no-one has the right to take it away from us. This land gives us our food and everything we need. The company can't have our land. The government can invite companies to their land, not ours. I will keep the company away. If the company comes again, I will kill them. We don't want their money. Money has no future. Money disappears. Only man and land remain. Our ancestors didn't live on money. Our ancestors didn't descend from money. We don't want their money. We have all we need; the land, the trees, the fish. I will not allow them to take our land. The forest is our skin: take away a person's skin and he dies."

Kipling Jinegari, Chief,
Binandere Tribe, Timouro, Papua Niugini



Article from "The Observer" 4 May 1986

TIMBER SOLD DOWN RIVER TO SOUTH AFRICA

by Kevin Toolis

In a bid to boost his war chest, Jonas Savimba, leader of Angola's UNITA guerrillas, has exported and sold thousands of tons of timber to a South African trading company. The valuable teak and other tropical hardwoods are felled by UNITA soldiers, frequently working under the supervision of white South African conscripts. The wood is then floated down the Cuando river out of southern Angola to an assembly point near Kongola in the Caprivi Strip, part of South African-occupied Namibia. The 3,000-square mile Caprivi Strip is a huge military base, housing two of South Africa's mercenary battalions, the 32 Buffalo and the Bushmen. The area has been cleared of its local population, and virtually the only civilian traffic seen on its extensive road network are heavily laden timber lorries travelling to a sawmill at Runde. After being sawn, the logs are transported to Johannesburg. The South African company involved is Framatrade Intertrading Ltd, based in Johannesburg. Its chairman, Fernando "Joe" Lopes, a former Portuguese refugee from Angola, admits he buys wood from UNITA.

"These stories are true. So what?" he said. "I have a pick-up point for the wood from UNITA. I exchange it for food and clothing. I do not go into Angola at all. I receive it at the border and it is all perfectly legal. Reports that I carry or supply arms for UNITA are trash."

UNITA, which is fighting Angola's Marxist MPLA government, controls the heavily wooded south-eastern Cuando-Cubango province of Angola. It is heavily dependent on South African arms and supplies.

In return for South African aid it has been alleged that UNITA trades in Angolan timber, diamonds, animal skins and ivory. However, until now there has been no positive proof.

Lopes denies he is involved in diamonds or ivory trading. He says he has no personal contact with UNITA's leaders, but supports their fight against "the communists".

MALAYSIA.....

-- ROAD THROUGH TAMAN NEGARA PLANNED

It seems that even when Rainforest is "locked up" in National Parks, the powers that be still can't resist the urge to meddle and destroy, all in the name of progress of course. The largest National Park in Malaysia, Taman Negara, is now in the firing line. This park sprawls along boundaries of Kelantan, Trengganu, and Pahang covering 4343 square kilometres.

A road is proposed through the heart of this tropical rainforest (echoes of Australia's debacle at Daintree), to be constructed by Malaysian Army Engineers who, in common with their fellows worldwide, are not noted for their sensitivity towards the environment.

The proposed road will run from the National Park headquarters in Kuala Tahan to Kuala Teku at the foot of Gunung Tahan, and construction is expected to commence in February 1987. Its aim is to make Taman Negara more attractive to tourists and to encourage more people to climb Gunung Tahan. At present this park attracts 10,000 visitors a year.

The main attractions in Kuala Tahan are:-

- a vast area of virgin rainforest, one of the world's oldest, untouched by development immediately adjacent to the Park headquarters.
- a natural atmosphere with access into the interior of the Park by boat or foot only.
- the opportunity to see wildlife, notably larger mammals such as barking deer and tapir, within easy walking distance of the Park Headquarters.
- the view northwards to Gunung Tahan over a vast area of lowland and hill forest untouched by roads or logging.

SUARA SAM, that country's leading environmental newspaper, is arguing strongly against the proposed road for the following reasons:-

- * Other roads through Malaysia's jungle attract negligible tourist traffic.
- * The attractions of the park will be adversely affected if the road is built.
- * The wildlife that at present frequents the forest and pasture/salt lick close to Kuala Tahan will be seriously disturbed.
- * The road will permanently impair the sense of isolation which is the prime attraction of National Parks to visitors.
- * Major walking trails will be cut.
- * The road will defile the virgin catchment of the Tahan, the river so popular with Park visitors for the boat trip to Lata Berkoh, and run-off from the soil disturbance will pollute its clear waters. It will also pollute the water supply for the Park Headquarters.

The road will be at least 40 kilometres long, will require about 40 bridges and will cost about \$10 million to build. SUARA SAM is of the opinion that the energy and finance to be used in the building of the road should be directed instead towards enhancing the attractions of Taman Negara, by including additional well constructed trails, bird watching hides, and better information services for a start.

It is to be hoped that pressure can be brought to bear to prevent the construction of this first access road ever built in Taman Negara, which has remained virgin territory since it was established as King George National Park in 1939, "reserved in perpetuity... for the ..propagation protection and preservation of the indigenous flora and fauna...and the preservation of objects and places of aesthetic historical or scientific interest..."

Source: SAM, 37 Lorong Birch, 10250 Pulau Pinang, MALAYSIA



Solomon Islands.....



The Secretary
Commonwealth Development Corporation.
33 Hill St, London. W1A 3AR. UK.
Re: Solomon Islands Plantations Ltd. and the environment

We write to you about the activities of the C.D.C. in the Solomon Islands, as we are very concerned about environmental aspects of S.I.P.L.'s oil palm development there, in which you have a majority shareholding.

In your palm oil development it seems that C.D.C. has shown little or no environmental or ecological consciousness, which is disgraceful in this day and age.

I quote from a letter written to the South Pacific Commission in 1977 by Mr Geoff Dennis, a past Conservation of Forests, and Commissioner for Lands in the Solomon Islands: "Oil palm large scale development on the plains of North West Guadalcanal has resulted in the total permanent destruction of large tracts of primary rainforest, with its complex floral and faunal habitats, as well as miles - long narrow strips of damp gully and riverine forest, which normally not only provides protection from heavy rain and erosion, but natural fire and wind breaks, and as a very fragile habitat and corridor - between coastal and inland forest - for plant and animal migration. Policy needs to be formulated to control such wholesale permanent and thoughtless destruction of natural environment, with its scientific and aesthetic values, for the doubtful economic developments to be derived from a vast monocultural development. Permanent loss, in this instance, also includes a vast tract of Ornithoptera habitat and colonies of a comparatively rare palm (*Drymophloeus* sps)."

Years later the situation has apparently not improved. We understand that last year your S.I.P.L. destroyed the last significant patch of rainforest in the Tenavatu district of the Guadalcanal plains, for extending oil palm plantings of dubious benefit.

Are your anti-environment activities in the Solomons typical of C.D.C.'s operations on other third world countries?

Could you give us good reason why there should not be a public enquiry into the environmental effects of C.D.C.'s operations? Could you kindly table this letter at the next meeting of the C.D.C. board.

Yours sincerely,

Colin McQueen



SWEDEN..

The Swedish group Faltbiologerna (Box 6022 -•19106 Sollentuna, Sweden) held an important conference on tropical rainforests in Sweden from the 6th to the 10th of February. The seminar, which was held deep in the forest, attracted more than 100 people, mainly from Northern Europe representing both environmental groups and indigenous people's support groups. The copy of the proceedings that they sent us was very interesting, with papers on the forests and indigenous tribes of Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Tanzania, West Africa, Nicaragua, Peru and Ecuador. Reports are included on 9 discussions on various strategies, plans of action and networking. Nepenthes, the Danish group from the University of Arhus proposed actions concerning the reform of the World Bank and many of the groups present will no doubt be participating in the World Bank actions planned for September (see elsewhere).

"Link" is the newsletter of YEE (Youth and Environment Europe) whose editorial office is also in Denmark (Klostermølle, Klostermøllevvej 48A, Voerløgård, DK-8660 Skanderborg, Denmark).

YEE is the European region of the IYF (International Youth Federation for Environmental Studies and Conservation) which comprises conservation groups from scores of countries.

In their December '85 issue of Link, there are articles about environmental education, acid rain, poisonous wastes, the actions to prevent the damming of the Danube, pesticides and also details of the YEE '86 forest campaign.

We learn that "in Sweden, 14 youth organisations totally representing over 150,000 young Swedes have gathered round an appeal for protection of the forests in Europe." Also plans are laid for travelling roadshows of groups starting in north Norway, Finland and Sweden and moving through Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium, Britain, Luxemburg, France, Austria Switzerland, Italy, Czechoslovakia, Spain and Portugal.



NORTHERN IRELAND

In Northern Ireland, Malcolm Samuel (99 Prospect Rd. Portstewart) reports an active campaign including leaflets (Forests or Famine - Don't Desert the Rainforests - 3 pounds/100) and stickers ("The production of this product involves the destruction of tropical rainforest ..." 1 pound per hundred). Architects have been sent information requesting them to use only temperate wood. Malcolm's leaflet also echoes the call made at last November's rainforest activist conference to blockade ships carrying cargoes of tropical timber.

Friends of the Earth species campaign, 23 Clifton Rd. Henlow, Bedfordshire UK is distributing leaflets (3 pounds for 300) on companies destroying rainforest and engaged in trade in endangered species products.

Adventure Club
Friends of the Wilderness
West Negros College
Bacolod City
Philippines

12.7.86



Sir:

Warm greetings from Adventure Club!

I've just received your letter dated 29.6.86 with some facts about the rainforest and the environment and I find very interesting. Thank you very much Sir.

May I request that you will include us in your mailing list as a subscribers of the World Rainforest Report without any charges. We admit that we Filipinos are victims of exploitation and poverty. Hope you understand us.

Sir, the Adventure Club is only a six-month old non-fund organisation which is majority joined by poor but deserving students who are lovers of nature and bound by a common interest to protect and restore the forest here in Negros Occidental, Philippines. In fact we have our weekly activity inside Mt. Canlaon National Park and we have planted already more than ten thousand seedlings of mahogany in the denuded area of the park, and it includes educational campaign for the forest conservation to the people living inside the forest of Mt. Canlaon National Park. We push through the project without any help from the government and, despite of the fact we are very much disappointed towards reality in terms of financial aspects of our club, but still we continue for our success.

In view of this, please help us in our endeavours by sending us some informations about this herculean but noble project of our club. About the slide show that you are recommending to us (IUCN/WWF A Green Earth or a Dry Desert), in what way how to borrow that slides? I think people are interested for that kind of slide show.

Sir, please help us, if you have some friends which is resourceful persons and a true lovers of nature who can help us in our financial burdens towards the realization of how important is the rainforest to the lives of many people in the world.

Hoping your kind response. Thank you very much, more power And may God bless!

In the service of forestry,

Yours very truly

Roem L. Delleva, President
Adventure Club
Forest Conservation Movement



Dear Roem,

Thank you for your very moving letter. Here is a copy of World Rainforest Report. We will continue to send you copies whenever we can afford to do so. Please send us news of the fate of the Philippine forests and your work in protecting them. We too believe that people will be interested in the IUCN/WWF rainforest slideshow, and we will be sending you a copy free of charge in a few weeks.

Our heartiest support for your tree-planting activities - we too are involved in such efforts (at present, the Tuntabale School wild native food trees planting). However, we would caution against planting monocultures of mahogany in your beautiful National Park. Have you considered mixed plantings so that the biosphere functions of native forests are duplicated as much as possible - habitat for the birds and beasts, the maintenance and generations of soils, the amelioration of climate etc.

For the Earth,

Rainforest Information Centre

USUAL DISGUSTING PLEA FOR MONEY

The heart of the struggle for the rainforests takes place in Third World countries; it is here that it is most vital to spread newsletters, books, videos, slide shows and other educational tools. Very often (usually in fact) the people who are most committed and able to work on rainforest issues on the ground in SE Asia, South America, Africa and the Pacific Islands are those least able to afford purchase of the tools they need to enlighten their fellow countrymen.

So, we pay the postage and bear the cost of the materials. This would not be possible without your donations and subscriptions, and it is only possible to the extent of your generosity. Since we have no paid staff, all of us working at the Rainforest Information Centre are volunteers, and all of the money that you send goes towards disseminating information to the places and people who so badly need it. We get no government grants, and individuals travelling on our behalf (presently to Ecuador, the Solomon Islands, Malaysia and India) do so at their own expense.

Donations to the Rainforest Information Centre are tax-deductible by making them out to the Australian Conservation Foundation, 672B Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn 3122, and specifying your preference that they be used for the Rainforest Information Centre.



The following excerpts give a taste of one of the most potent, convincing articles on why we must protect tropical forests we have seen. Written by Hugh Iltis, Professor of Botany, University of Wisconsin for 'Environment', Vol. 25, No.10, we recommend reading it in full:

TROPICAL FORESTS: WHAT WILL BE THEIR FATE?

Those of us who take pride in being environmentally enlightened have been teaching pollution control and contour plowing, nature preservation and Aldo Leopold's land ethic, but mostly with reference to our own rather impoverished temperate biota. What little concern we may have had for the tropics was rarely based on reality. In our comfortable ignorance, these lush lands and their wild animals seemed so safe from destruction that we rarely worried about their fate. The underdevelopment, the innocence of their illiterate populations, and the endemic tropical plagues like malaria and yellow fever that kept their populations well in check seemed sure to offer their ample protection.

Since 1945, however, all this has changed. We now have DDT and 2,4,5-T; the all-powerful (and greedy) multinational corporations with their woodchippers and jungle smashers (one acre an hour, as advertised by Le Tourneau); the vast and hungry army of the poor and the landless; and the devastating, self-serving, post-World War II development syndrome.

Inevitably, what has resulted from these activities has been the systematic, barbaric obliteration of nature for the "benefit of man". As a consequence, we are faced today with the greatest biological calamity this world has ever known -- the imminent decimation and extermination of the world's tropical biota. As E.O. Wilson put it, such a great loss of genetic diversity would be worse than energy depletion, economic collapse, limited nuclear war or conquest by a totalitarian government. In fact, as terrible as those catastrophes would be for us, they could be repaired within a few generations....The one process ongoing in the 1980's that will take millions of years to correct is the loss of genetic and species diversity by the destruction of natural habitats. This is the folly our descendants are least likely to forgive us.

Bioclimactic Paradox:

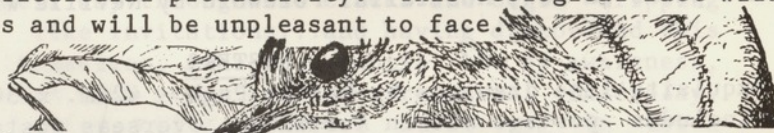
"Many well-meaning American advisors and humanitarians have been misled by the luxuriance of the tropical forests. How many times have they announced that the answer to world hunger lies in their sustained agricultural utilization? Yet, ignorance of ecology in this case is fatal. As Professor J. Chang of the University of Hawaii has explained, in the tropical regions, despite their lushness, annual grasses such as wheat, rye, barley, and rice have relatively low agricultural productivity compared to those species found in the cool temperate climates from whence they originally came. This is due to a simple bioclimatic fact: during the long and warm tropical nights, a plant's respiration burns up most of the surplus carbohydrates that it produces during the relatively short photosynthetic day. The 16-hour days followed by cool, 8-hour nights, as found in the Dakotas or the Ukraine, permit much greater accumulations of photosynthate in such plants, creating a bumper crop come harvest time.

In addition, high rainfall tends to leach the already nutrient-poor lateritic soils to sterile gravels in many parts of the lowland tropics, and there are no climatic controls (i.e., the freezing temperatures of winter) to knock back insect pests. Dreams of making bread baskets out of these regions evaporate into the fantasies that they are -- editorials and lead articles in prominent journals notwithstanding.



Thus, the tropics -- the wet tropics in particular -- present a climatically determined paradox. Biologically, they are rich beyond belief, but in many significant ways they are agriculturally poor. That Iowa or South Dakota can never become a Mexico, Panama, or Amazonian Brazil in terms of biological diversity seems obvious. At the same time, tropical countries can never become an Iowa or a South Dakota in terms of agricultural productivity. This ecological fact will have serious political consequences and will be unpleasant to face.

Educating the Public:



That the forces opposing a rational solution to these ecological problems are all-powerful and influential need hardly be pointed out. In 1970, we had Earth Days from coast to coast, dedicating ourselves to a biologically sane world. Now, 13 years later, this profound intellectual revolution is all but dead, sabotaged by administrative officials and by heavily subsidized and carefully orchestrated campaigns of the media and their corporate allies, which have obscured the very real dangers in neglecting the world's ecology.

I need only to point out that the special anniversary issue of 'Time' magazine, "The Most Amazing 60 Years in History," published October 5, 1983, does not mention or illustrate in its 168 pages of text and lavish pictures one single environmental event, fact, or problem: nothing whatever on Earth Day or Rachel Carson's 'Silent Spring' or on DDT or 2,4,5-T, or on extinction of species or pollution, or soil erosion; in fact, absolutely not one word on any environment issue. This indifference to reality reaches even to 'Time's' total silence on the population explosion. This is, on reflection, surely the most terrifying fact of the past 60 years: the near tripling of the world's population, an increase of fully 2.95 billion additional people since 1923, the year when 'Time' magazine came into existence.

This brings me to a final point. While corporations exploit and their political bedfellows run interference for dubious economic aims, let us not forget (well-meaning liberals included) that equally responsible for these biological extinctions are poverty, hunger, and ignorance -- the chop-chop of a million eyes, the cravings of a billion mouths.

(Hugh H. Iltis, a botany professor and herbarium director at the University of Wisconsin in Madison, specialized in the evolution of corn and its relatives; in the New World species of Capparidaceae; and in the plant geography and floristics of Wisconsin, North America, and the Neotropics. He has made eight expeditions to Latin America, which led to the discovery of *Zea diploperennis*, the most primitive relative of corn.

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WOR

Rainforest Information Centre

P.O. BOX 368 LISMORE N.S.W. 2480 AUSTRALIA

THE RAINFORESTS ARE THE WOMB OF LIFE, home to half of the world's ten million species of plants and animals. They are presently being destroyed at the rate of 80 ha./minute and at the present rate, they will be annihilated within our lifetimes.

The RAINFOREST INFORMATION CENTRE is a non-profit conservation organisation founded in 1980. Donations to the Rainforest Information Centre are tax-deductible within Australia by making them out to the Australian Conservation Foundation, 672B Glenferrie Rd., Hawthorn 3122, and asking that they be used for the purposes of the Rainforest Information Centre.

WORLD RAINFOREST REPORT is the journal of the Rainforest Action and Information Network. SUBSCRIBE NOW - price for four issues \$10 Australia, \$15 elsewhere.

Hundreds of copies of World Rainforest Report and other rainforest publications are sent out free to third world environment groups and individuals.

RAINBOW TSHIRTS, SCARVES, SWEAT SHIRTS. full rainbow colours, either plain or with your choice of images from dolphins, bushrangers need bush, earth first!, think globally act locally, or peace/harmony/ecology.
TSHIRTS \$16, SWEAT SHIRTS \$25, SCARVES \$5

"WORLD SCIENTISTS WRITE TO PREMIER WRAN ABOUT RAINFORESTS" \$3.00 & postage the scientific arguments that led to the establishment of six new rainforest national parks in NSW, Australia. Foreword by Neville Wran, ex-premier of NSW.

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Two exquisite line drawings by Dailan Pugh - 42cm. x 30 cm.
price includes postage within Australia. Overseas postage extra)

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STATIONERY SETS in rainforest designs by Dailan. \$5

AUDIO TAPES

"THINKING GLOBALLY, ACTING LOCALLY" 60 minute documentary tape with original music of the direct actions that led to preservation of NSW rainforests. "It is the emotion, the commitment, the inspiration that floors you....the music is superb"..Earth First. \$7.00 & postage

VIDEO TAPES

GIVE TREES A CHANCE is the film of the Terania Creek campaign to preserve rainforests in Australia. Narrated by Jack Thompson, and with superb music and on the spot protest action, it belongs in every activists collection. \$50

RAINFOREST INFORMATION CENTRE GREETING CARDS, drawings by Dailan

1. Small marsupials (Brown Antechinus)
2. Satin Bowerbird, male displaying to female
3. Leaf-tailed Gecko with Pothos vine.
4. Grey-headed flying fox

set of four, \$2, 60c each & postage